

David Stuart and Daniel Carroll, Commissioners to Thomas Jefferson, December 10, 1791, Document Dated December 10th, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Commissioners to Jefferson FROM COMMISSIONERS TO MR. JEFFERSON

8th Decr. 1791

Sir,

Immediately on the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultmo we gave directions to Mr: Ellicot, to lay out squares in the places mentioned—The enclosed letter will inform you of the progress he has made. From the opportunities we have had, of acquiring any knowledge on this subject, we think it will be of importance that some squares on the most eligible situations on Navigation, should be in readiness by the next sale—We are enclined to think from our conversation with Majr. L'Enfant, and Mr. Ellicot, that it will not be advisable to have a sale sooner than the middle of June, Mr. Blodget has not yet arrived—It would certainly be very desirable to form a contract of such magnitude with him—We fear from some Ideas thrown out by a Mr. Welsh who, (we understand) is to be concerned with him in the contract, that he rates the importance of it, to the City so highly, as to expect to get the ground at a low rate—We should be happy in case of an Offer from him, to be favoured with the Presidents, Ideas respecting the terms which might be acceded to—In so great a purchase, as Mr. Blodget contemplates, it would certainly, be wrong to take our late sales as the only guide or standard—But how far short of what they

averaged pr Acre would it be proper to stop—The circumstances respecting Mr. Carroll's house we have already laid before the President, and received his late communications

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on the subject—As the house was nearly demolished before the Chancellors injunction arrived, Mr. Carroll did not think it worth while to have it served, trusting perhaps, that our directions expressly forbidding their further proceedings in it would have been attended to—We are sorry to mention that the Majr. who was absent at the time we issued them, paid no attention to them but completely demolished it on his return, this instance has given fresh alarm, as the proprietors had flattered themselves, that in any instances in which they might conceive themselves injured, they should be able to obtain redress from the Commissioners—As we have already more than once, from our high opinion of his talents sacrificed our feelings to our Zeal we have done it again—The Majr. has indeed done us the honour of writing us a letter justifying his conduct—We have not noticed it, and believe as we are likely to get every thing happily adjusted between Mr, Carroll and him, it will be most prudent to drop all explanations—We expect you will see the Majr. in Philadelphia in a short time—We cannot conclude, without expressing our Sanguine hopes from the train in which

all matters are now respecting the unhappy affair, that however reprehensible it may have been, in the mode of, conducting it, that it will prove Ultimately salutary.

We are Sir &c—

Signed

Da. Stewart

DI. Carroll.

[COMMISSIONERS' LETTER BOOK, Vol. 1, 1791–1793, p. 42 in the National Archives; p. 208, U. S. v. SMITH.]